message, I keenly regret the circumstance which has prevented our permanent Diwan-President from delivering it. I am sure you are one with me in wishing for his speedy recovery and return to this seat which he has so worthily filled.

I realise, in common with you, the significance of His Highness' gracious message. It is a heavy responsibility, and it is mainly the hope, that our deliberations towards the peaceful advancement of His Highness' subjects will, in the true spirit of His Highness' Message, be characterised by mutual trust and good-will, that sustains me.

I am, as you are well aware, but one of yourselves, with this disadvantage, that I have been, except for brief intervals, rather a distant spectator than an actual participator in the life of this Council. I may say, at the very outset, that I shall have for that reason to draw largely on your indulgence, which, I trust, I shall have in abundant measure.

I once again welcome you to the Council.

We shall now proceed with the business.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Sale of Court Fee Stamps.

1. **Mr. V. V. Ananthapadmanabha Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform the House as to the income derived from the sale of court fee stamps for the last 12 years?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Member is referred to the receipts under "Stamps" in the printed budget estimates for the last 12 years.

Mr. V. V. Ananthapadmanabha Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to inform the House as to the income derived from the sale of court fee stamps for the last 12 years ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is not necessary to read out the questions.

President.—If there is any supplementary question, you may put that ; that is enough.

Stamp defalcation in the Excise Superintendent's Office.

2. **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government be pleased to state what has become of the departmental inquiry referred to in question No. 154 of the legislative session of 1103; what is the report of the Superintendent in the matter and what are the orders of the Government?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Final orders have not been passed yet. The matter is under correspondence with the Superintendent of Excise.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—May I know how long this inquiry was pending ?

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Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Is it the subsequent enquiry or the first enquiry ?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The first enquiry.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—From Kumbham 1102.

Excise Committee.

3. **Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Committee has submitted its report on the Excise policy of the Government ;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether the Government have passed orders on it ;

(d) will the Government be pleased to place the report and orders on it, if any, on the Table ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) Sixth Vrischigam 1103.

(c) No.

(d) This will be considered after Government have passed orders on the report.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—May I know when the Committee was appointed ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—18th August 1925.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Now it is 1928, nearly three years. Why this long delay in submitting the report ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyantha Ayyar.—Long delay for what ?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—In submitting the report by the Committee.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—There was no unnecessary delay at all. Meetings had to be held and the matter discussed and, without causing any avoidable delay, the report had been submitted to the Government.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—How many meetings took place before this ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Notice.

Sale of Medicines.

4. **Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the amount realised by the sale of medicines to the well-to-do patients in each of the Hospitals and dispensaries of the State for the years 1100, 1101, 1102 and 1103 (up to the end of Edavam) ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No amount is realised by the sale of medicines as the practice of charging well-to-do patients for medicines is not in vogue.

Report of the Economic Survey.

5. **Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased

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